

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT VVB Braunkohle Bitterfeld

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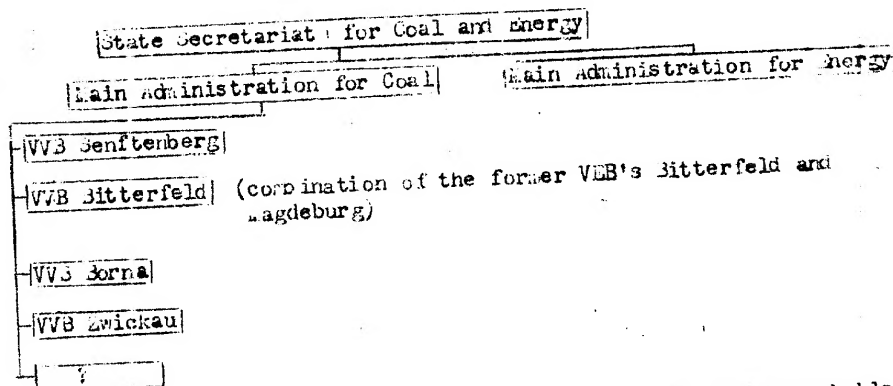
SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The following chart depicts the organization of the State Secretariat of Coal and Energy:



2. The following persons are employed in the administration of the VVB Braunkohle Bitterfeld:

- (fnu) Fricke - Head Manager, (SMD), formerly with the dissolved Braunkohlen-
verwaltung Bergwitz
- Willi Böse - Personnel chief, formerly personnel chief of the VVB Magdeburg
in Stassfurt, was a miner in the Karl-Schröter-Schacht in Calbe

3. The following mines are under the jurisdiction of Bitterfeld:

- Calbe: small deep mine; no briquette factory located there.
- Völpke: administration in the GDR; [redacted] was the main
supplier of the Harpke power plant. The plant manager and 60% of the
workers [redacted] but as a result of the sealing of the
border, production is only 25% of normal.

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- c. Hüttenleben: open-pit, mine manager [redacted] 50X1-HUM
- d. Löderburg: coal practically exhausted, will be closed after 1952 in accordance with the Plan. After that it will be used only as an experimental station by the coal industry for the purpose of trying out new technical processes and as a training school for miners.
- e. Egeln: small deep mine; no briquette factory located there.
- f. Königsau: open-pit mine; enlarged by combination with the Kombinat Nachterstedt, formerly SAG Brikett.
- g. Unseburg: consists of two deep shafts and a briquette factory belonging to the "Werksgruppe".
- h. Osternienburg: two deep shafts and one briquette factory both belonging to the "Werksgruppe".
4. The production plan for 1952 at Osternienburg calls for 400,000 tons of lignite, which comprises 0.3% of the DDR total. The lignite is scheduled for factories and home consumption within the DDR, except for 110,000 tons which are to be pressed into briquettes. The coal mined in Osternienburg is especially good for pressing into briquettes. In order to obtain one ton of briquettes, 2.16 tons of lignite are required.
 5. The lignite and briquettes are handled exclusively by DHZ Kohle. About 50% of the briquettes are regularly shipped to Aken, whence they are transported by ship to the USSR or the People's Democracies as reparations or exports.
 6. The production at Osternienburg is higher than in 1944. This is an exception for the DDR lignite and mineral coal industry but is not the result of better technical or material conditions. Rather it is because the mine was owned by Polvay, which had only as much coal mined as was required to supply power to its chemical plants. Thus production was easy to increase. The other lignite mines have not surpassed the 1940 production because of the faulty technical condition of the equipment, the poor protective devices, and because of poor planning.
 7. Burners for miners' lamps are in such short supply that the total force of miners cannot be employed at one time. Wires for conveyor belts are also lacking. There is a great lack of protective clothing, materiel, and spare parts of all sorts in the workshops. The equipment is completely run down. The cables must be used for five years in accordance with police directives, and those now in use do not meet with the simplest safety requirements. The whole installation had to stop work many times by order of the mine safety police. Instead of working with the regular "Schmiedekoks",¹ the workshop employees must work with the so-called "Knallkoks"² which causes cases of burns and eye injuries almost daily.
 8. The overhead cable conveyor at Osternienburg between the pit opening and the briquette presses had to be taken out of commission recently because it was not safe and there was a shortage in cable. It was impossible to repair it because of the lack of materials. It has since been torn down for shipment to the Wilhelm Pieck pit in the Mansfeld combine.
 9. Coal will no longer be shipped to the Edderitz distillery. The lignite, which had been delivered by Osternienburg from 1950 until the present time, is specially suited for distilling. Two new briquette presses are planned for the Osternienburg briquette factory so that all the crude lignite produced can be pressed there. The Edderitz distillery will have to get its lignite elsewhere.

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10. The following is a list of personnel at the Ostermuenburg mine:

- a. Willi Popfmeier - Director, long a KPD man.
- b. (fnu) Rauschenbusch - Sales Manager [REDACTED]
- c. Emil Wittig - Head of personnel.
- d. (fnu) Ducke - Head of the SED factory group (Betriebsgruppe), which position changes hands often because the leaders of the factory group cannot meet the wishes of the SED Kreis leaders because of the opposition of the miners.
- e. Hermann Böhm - Factory union leader (Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung) (BGL), SED formerly SED, from Aken.

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- 1. [REDACTED] Comment. Forged coal.
- 2. [REDACTED] Comment. Broken and highly combustible coal.

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